

Report Way to Reduce Reactions To Measles Vaccine

Gamma globulin, a component of blood plasma, has been found to reduce unfavorable reactions to a live attenuated measles-virus vaccine, a group of medical researchers reported recently.

A "marked reduction" of reactions among a group of school children successfully immunized with a globulin-modified measles-virus vaccine was reported in the (June) *American Journal of Diseases of Children*, published by the American Medical Association.

The authors said this method of vaccination

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would allow large-scale measles immunization programs.

The article was written by Fred R. McCrumb Jr., M.D.; Richard B. Hornick, M.D.; Sheldon Kress, M.D.; Ann E. Schluederberg, Sc.D.; Merrill J. Snyder, Ph.D., and Thomas Bigbee, B.S., Baltimore, and Samuel Musser, M.S., St. Joseph, Mo.

Earlier studies indicated that the measles vaccine was effective, but caused fever and rash in some vaccinees.

"Previous experience with attenuated measles-virus vaccines administered by various routes revealed a high incidence of reactions which, in our opinion, would preclude the use of these vaccines for mass immunization," the researchers said.

In their study, involving 158 susceptible school children in St. Joseph, Mo., each child was given an intramuscular injection of the measles vaccine and, three to five days later, an intramuscular injection of gamma globulin.

"Of this group, 143 children (91 per cent) were successfully immunized by this method without an appreciable number of clinically significant reactions," the authors reported.

"Only four per cent of the group had fever in excess of 103 F, and nine per cent had abnormal temperatures lasting for three or more days.

"Rash was observed in 4 per cent to 17 per cent of children who were immunized by the combined method.

"Constitutional symptoms and mild respiratory manifestations of measles vaccine infection were limited to the few children who experienced febrile reactions in excess of 103 F."

The group also reported that the vaccine modified by gamma globulin proved to be as potent an immunizer as the vaccine given by injection without globulin.

"The desirability of having a method of vaccination with low reactivity and high immunogenicity cannot be questioned," the researchers said. "Standardization of the procedure to assure a high degree of effectiveness should not be difficult."

They concluded:

"Although attenuated measles vaccines are highly immunogenic, it is our opinion that, in their present state of modification, these viruses are not suitable for community use.

"Until a less reactive vaccine is developed, the use of a combined immunization procedure employing gamma globulin, and attenuated vaccine appears to be the only practical method of large-scale immunization against measles presently available."

MALLORY WEISS SYNDROME—P. Glotzer and K. Elias. New Eng. J. Med.—Vol. 264:817 (April 20) 1961.

The Mallory Weiss syndrome consists of postemetic, linear, mucosal tears at the gastroesophageal junction, which may produce massive upper GI. bleeding. A case is presented in which the diagnosis was made preoperatively and successful surgical treatment accomplished. The clues in diagnosis and the proper treatment are discussed.